

# LECALE TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEW LASALLIAN CATHOLIC 11-19 CO-EDUCATIONAL  
VOLUNTARY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, DOWNPATRICK

## APRIL 2024 PROGRESS UPDATE

*from the Interim Board of Governors*



## ***Introduction***

We, the Interim Board of Governors and Dr Moore, are delighted to update you on the main developments since our last report in February 2024. Since then, we have continued to focus on the priorities in the Implementation Plan. Dr Moore is very appreciative of the tangible support she has received from a variety of partners including the staff and Principals in the three schools, the parents, our primary school partners and the teaching and support staff unions. In particular, she wants to stress the great privilege it is to meet the pupils in each of the schools. Their courtesy, manners and warm welcome are a great tribute to their parents and staff. Dr Moore has an office in each school and shares her time between the three sites.

We are excited to launch our pupil version of the Progress Report.

Please click on the link below to access.

[Pupil Update](#)

Outlined below is a brief overview of some of the key developments since the last update.

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# 1. Appointments

We are absolutely delighted to share with you the news that the two Vice Principals are Ms Michelle Clancy and Mrs Martina Lennon. We wish them every success and happiness in the years ahead as they work collaboratively and creatively with Dr Moore, staff, pupils and other partners in the establishment of Lecale Trinity Grammar School. They are very excited about the opportunity to create an inclusive centre of excellence grounded in a Lasallian value system. Furthermore, they are looking forward to beginning work on the immediate challenges in order to ensure that the school can successfully open in September. The recruitment process for an internal trawl for a third Vice Principal post is now underway.

## Ms Clancy

Ms Michelle Clancy joined the teaching staff of St. Patrick's Grammar School in September 1994 on a one-year contract and almost thirty years later has experience as a Science teacher, Head of Department, Assistant Principal and Vice-Principal.

Michelle firmly believes in the transformative power of education and is passionate about ensuring that all young people are provided with the best opportunities to thrive and succeed. Central to her pedagogy that ensures that all students can achieve, is the importance of building nurturing relationships, while fostering opportunities for holistic development through extra-curricular and enrichment activities. She is keen to foster and develop supportive networks for the students of Lecale Trinity Grammar School and to forge strong links between school and home.

When not at work, Michelle enjoys all sports, especially Gaelic football and hurling, and spending time in the Mourne Mountains. In holiday periods, she swaps the Irish sea for the Atlantic Ocean when she returns to her native County Clare. Michelle is a keen traveller, enjoying adventure style holidays, such as driving Route 66, walking the Camino or hiking the Inca Trail to Macchu Pichu, even venturing to India and Cambodia with students to work in marginalised communities.

Michelle is looking to the future with optimism and is honoured to be in a leadership role in Lecale Trinity Grammar School.



Ms Clancy



Mrs Lennon

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# ***Appointments continued..***

## **Mrs Lennon**

Mrs Martina Lennon is a Senior Teacher in De La Salle High School and throughout her career, her teaching philosophy has been rooted in the Lasallian values of faith, service and community.

Mrs Lennon, whose vision is to, “support the Principal Designate, Dr Moore, in empowering students to reach their full potential through fostering an environment where every student feels valued and capable of achieving their goals”, is delighted to take up the position of Vice-Principal in Lecale Trinity Grammar School

Mrs Lennon has held a number of teaching and leadership roles.

As Head of Mathematics, she was responsible for leading the department to secure high standards of learning and teaching. As the school's Numeracy Co-ordinator, she works closely with Heads of Department and teachers to ensure high quality standards in Numeracy Across the Curriculum. She also served as Head of Year, leading year groups of students and Form Teachers, providing pastoral care, support and guidance. Additionally, she worked as Examinations Officer, managing internal and external assessments. As a Senior Leader, Mrs Lennon fosters collaborative leadership and a supportive, equitable school culture. Alongside her teaching roles, Mrs Lennon is also a school Governor.

In conjunction with her roles within school and in the spirit of continuous learning, on invitation from the Education Authority, Mrs Lennon took up a Systems Leadership Role of Heads of Mathematics across several schools.

For many years, Mrs Lennon led the annual ski trip for students, giving them an opportunity to learn new skills and build confidence in stunning Alpine resorts.

Mrs Lennon is delighted to take up the role of Vice Principal of Lecale Trinity Grammar School. She is passionate about building strong relationships and working with students, parents, staff and all connected to the school community to create a positive and inclusive learning environment where ‘Faith in Every Child’ is at the heart of her leadership style.

## **Personal Assistant (PA)**

We are also delighted to share with you the news that Mrs Ciara McCartan has accepted the post of Personal Assistant to Dr Moore. We also wish Ciara happiness and success in the years ahead.

## **Further Recruitment**

The Senior Leader, Learning Support Co-ordinator (SENCO), Pupil Progress and Support Leaders (Heads of Year) and a number of Head of Department posts have been advertised. It is hoped to finalise a number of these appointments this month.

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## **2. Pupil Forums**

Dr Moore and staff have continued to engage with pupils in planning for the opening of Lecale Trinity Grammar School.

### **Student Transition Sub-Group**

The pupils have been working on the design of a pupil-friendly version of the Progress Update. The pupils, in partnership with staff, have looked at a more accessible design for pupils that will chart the progress and share information on key areas and issues that they have identified as most important to them and which therefore, should be included in the e-book.

You can access the booklet by clicking on the link above and the pupils will add to the content as the year progresses. Included in the booklet is information on the crest, uniform, sites, curriculum and Transition events.

Dr Moore has held meetings with focus groups of pupils of all three schools to discuss and share ideas around transition programmes for each year group. As a result, the following transition days have been planned:

A very successful Transition and Options event was held for all Year 10 and Year 12 pupils on 9th February in St Patrick's Grammar School. The pupils came together and engaged in team building activities facilitated by Learn Spark and attended information sessions on pathways and options, with input from University of Ulster.

Transition events for all groups have been organised with a focus on transition, team building and resilience and will take place on 18th April and 19th April. Year 8 pupils will attend St Mary's for the event, and De La Salle High School will host all other year groups.

### **Student Ethos Strategic Sub-Group**

The Student Ethos Sub-Group has met to review the core values underpinning the school's commitment to 'Faith in Every Child' and to consider a draft Mission Statement. This builds on the excellent ethos work undertaken in partnership with staff of all three schools, and takes cognisance of consultation findings. Further work will continue with this process in the next few weeks, as staff, pupils and Governors collaborate to finalise the draft Mission Statement for consultation.

### **Student Curriculum Strategic Sub-Groups**

Dr Moore and the Vice-Principals have continued to meet with Curriculum Focus Groups of students regarding the curriculum for next year. They have also continued to working closely with the Principals and Senior Teachers responsible for options and curriculum in St Mary's High School, De La Salle High School and St Patrick's Grammar School. As a result, the timetabling process is well underway.

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### ***3. Admissions***

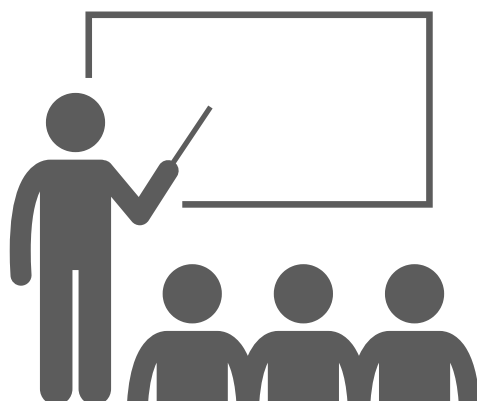
The Education Authority's Admissions portal has closed and the admission process for Year 8 pupils is now underway. The school will align with the Education Authority key date of advising parents of the outcome of applications from 18th May.

It has been proposed that Year 8 pupils, along with Year 9 pupils, will be based on the Mercy Site. To ensure appropriate class placement, the school will link closely with partner primary schools to assist in the placement of pupils into classes. This will include visits by the Key Stage 3 Team, including Heads of Year and the Learning Support Coordinator (SENCO) to review the academic progress of each pupil and to highlight any pastoral needs. Cognitive Ability Assessments (CATs) will also be used in Lecale Trinity Grammar to aid the organisation of class groupings. CATs will be used to assess a pupil's ability in three areas: verbal (thinking with words); quantitative (thinking with numbers); non-verbal (thinking with shapes and space). These results will also help the school to benchmark, set targets in each subject area, identify areas of support and challenge, and measure the impact of learning and teaching. CAT Assessments will be carried out as part of the Transition Process for pupils before the end of summer term.

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### ***4. Classes for Lecale Trinity Grammar School***

The process of meeting with the Pastoral Teams in all three school to ensure appropriate placement of current pupils is underway. This will include review of pastoral information and academic performance, including the use of CAT scores. The commitment given to pupils in Years 11 and 13 to progress into the new academic year with current teachers where possible has also been a major factor in the timetabling design.



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## **5. Uniform**

It is wonderful to see the full uniform which has been agreed with the suppliers. We thank them for their continued support and advice in this important process. You can see a copy of the school uniform in the pupil's e-book that accompanies this update.

Dr Moore, and members of the PE departments in all three schools, have begun the process of engaging with pupil focus groups around the design of the new PE uniform. We look forward to sharing more information on this area with you through our e-book.



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## **6. Accommodation**

Dr Moore, the Bursar Designate, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Interim Board of Governors have held several meetings with key decision makers to lobby for and exert maximum influence to ensure that capital investment is secured for accommodation requirements, including minor works, on both sites. These meetings have included the Chief Executive of CCMS and a meeting on the Mercy site with DE and Education Authority officials. We have also communicated in writing with the Permanent Secretary for Education and the Minister for Education. We are pleased to share with you that the outcome of this tireless action is the Minister's decision to visit the sites in April. We look forward to meeting Mr Givan and doing everything in our power to impress upon him the need for adequate investment in Lecale Trinity Grammar School.



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## **7. Communication**



There are several important developments which we want to share with you.

### **The Website**

The development of a website for Lecale Trinity Grammar School is in progress and we hope to launch the finalised website shortly.

### **Meetings with Parents**

Dr Moore and her team have continued to hold meetings with parents. These meetings, covering a variety of issues including admissions, class setting and special needs have been most constructive.

### **Meetings with Staff**

Dr Moore and the two Vice Principals are also committed to hosting meetings with the staff from the three schools on a regular basis to share information and respond to queries.

### **Meetings with Primary School Partners**

Dr Moore continues to value all opportunities to meet with Primary Principals whose advice and feedback are very significant in the shared journey ahead. She was delighted to have attended the excellent Lecale Principals seminar.

The Chair and Dr Moore continue to meet with the trade unions on a regular basis.

## ***Interim Board of Governors***

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